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IDENTICAL LETTERS DATED 2 MARCH 1998 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF IRAQ TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL AND TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to inform you that violations of Iraq's airspace by United States aircraft continued between 22 and 27 February 1998 and that the aircraft in question carried out reconnaissance and engaged in acts of provocation, as set forth in the annex hereto.

Your intervention is requested with a view to bringing a halt to actions that, as flagrant violations of the Charter of the United Nations and international law, pose a threat to the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of Iraq.

These actions continue to alarm the civilian population and to cause serious damage to private and public property. The Republic of Iraq affirms its right to seek legal compensation for the damage being inflicted on the Iraqi people and the Iraqi State by these actions.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Nizar HAMDOON
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex

Violations of Iraq's airspace and damage caused, 22-27 February 1998

1. In the northern region 83 sorties were flown at speeds of 600 to 900 kilometres per hour and at altitudes of 6,000 to 9,000 metres, over the following cities and towns: Dohuk, Mosul, Amadiyah, Aqrah, Zakho, Irbil and Tall Afar.

2. In the southern region 635 sorties were flown at speeds of 600 to 900 kilometres per hour and at altitudes of 6,000 to 9,000 metres, over the following Iraqi cities and towns: Nasiriyah, Samawah, Artawi, Ushbayjah, Jalibah, Salman, Busayyah, Qurnah, Chabaish, Shinafiyah, Rumaythah, Habbariyah, Basrah, Hayy, Shatrah, Amarah, Diwaniyah, Rifa'i, Nukhayb, Qal'at Salih, Taqtaqanah, Ali al-Sharqi, Abu Sukhayr and Qal'at Sukkar.

3. Four violations were committed by TR-1 reconnaissance aircraft flying at altitudes of 20,000 metres and at speeds of 600 kilometres per hour.

4. At 1600 hours on 27 February 1998 a formation of two United States aircraft broke the sound barrier to the north of the Artawi area.

5. At 0930, 1145, 1645, 1355 and 1455 hours on 16 and 17 February 1998, United States aircraft violated Iraqi airspace over Umm Qasr and Faw.

6. At 1150, 1305, 1534, 1645, 1310, 1356, 1359, 1435 and 0445 hours on 18 and 19 February 1998, United States aircraft violated Iraqi airspace over the Umm Qasr area.